

From: Congresswoman Nita Lowey
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2007 5:57 PM
Subject: A Note from Nita on Flood Recovery Efforts

Dear Friend,

Our region has taken a heavy hit from the floods in recent days. I am working hard with local, county, state, and federal officials to ensure that everything possible is done to help our community recover from this disaster.

Today, I led my colleagues in Congress from the Hudson Valley in urging the President to approve Governor Spitzer's request for a federal disaster declaration which would make federal assistance available for recovery. The federal government simply must do its part in this effort.

As of today, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Disaster Assessment teams are working with the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services, and local public safety agencies to conduct a preliminary assessment of damages. Because the President will evaluate the information collected by these teams - including the numbers of homes, businesses and public facilities damaged - in his decision about whether to declare a federal disaster, all levels of government are working together closely to ensure that proper assessments are made.

If and when the President makes a federal disaster declaration, FEMA will set up a system for local residents to report all damage, and my office will provide assistance as needed during this process. In the meantime, be sure to contact your insurance company if your home or business sustained any damage that you would like to report and keep receipts for all clean-up efforts.

As I work to secure federal assistance, I hope the information below about what to do in the aftermath of a flood will be helpful to you. Please feel free to contact my office at (914) 428-1707 or (845) 639-3485 if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

If you wish to contact me further, I welcome your correspondence. Please visit my website, www.house.gov/lowey, and e-mail me through the webform provided.